



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Care Finance and Policy
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.118G, §6 ½ the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy ("Division") will hold a public hearing beginning Tuesday March 16, 2010 at 10:00 AM at the Reggie Lewis Center, 1350 Tremont Street, Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120, and subsequent days thereafter regarding:

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND PAYER COSTS AND COST TRENDS

Commissioner David Morales will preside over the hearings, which may be expected to continue through March 31, 2010. The Division shall call as witnesses a representative sample of providers and payers, including but not limited to those specified by the statute, who shall provide testimony under oath and subject to examination and cross examination by the Division and the Attorney General, as authorized by M.G.L. c. 118G, §§ 6 and 6 ½, regarding the factors that contribute to cost growth within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' health care system and to the relationship between provider costs and payer premium rates. The Division reserves the right to call other witnesses in furtherance of the statutory purpose of the hearings.

Testimony may include without limitation: (i) in the case of providers, testimony concerning payment systems, payer mix, cost structures, administrative and labor costs, capital and technology costs, adequacy of public payer reimbursement levels, reserve levels, utilization trends, and cost-containment strategies, the relation of private payer reimbursement levels to public payer reimbursements for similar services, efforts to improve the efficiency of the delivery system, efforts to reduce the inappropriate or duplicative use of technology; and (ii) in the case of private and public payers, testimony concerning factors underlying premium cost and rate increases, the relation of reserves to premium costs, the payer's efforts to develop benefit design and payment policies that enhance product affordability and encourage efficient use of health resources and technology, efforts by the payer to increase consumer access to health care information, and efforts by the payer to promote the standardization of administrative practices, and any other matters as determined by the Division.

The Division will schedule and accept oral testimony only from witnesses called by the Division; any member of the public may submit written testimony. All written testimony provided by witnesses or the public may be posted on the Division's website: <http://www.mass.gov/dhcfp>.

Additional information regarding the hearings may be posted from time to time on the Division's website.